DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 116 488 FL 007 366

TITLE	Education in Vietnam: Fundamental Principles and Curricula. General Information Series, No. 3. Indochinese Refugee Education Guides.
INSTITUTION	Center for Applied Linguistics, Washington, D.C.
PUB DATE	75
NOTE	20p.
EDRS PRICE	MF-$0.76 HC-$1.58 Plus Postage
DESCRIPTORS	*Cultural Background; Cultural Context; Curriculum Design; Curriculum Guides; *Educational Counseling; *Educational Principles; Elementary Education; *Elementary School Curriculum; Guidance Counseling; Indochinese; Refugees; Relocation; *Student Placement; Vietnamese
IDENTIFIERS	*Vietnam

ABSTRACT

This guide reconstructs the curricula taught in Vietnam at the elementary level. It includes the underlying educational principles and lists the subjects along with the number of hours they are taught. The curriculum for each of the first five compulsory grades is presented separately, and four charts give overall statistics. The intent of the summary is to familiarize American educators with the national educational system of Vietnam so that they will better understand the background of Vietnamese children. This understanding will facilitate the difficult job of student counseling and placement. (TL)

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3.

GENERAL INFORMATION SERIES: Education in Vietnam: Fundamental Principles and Curricula

Our efforts to reconstruct the curricula taught in Vietnam were greatly hampered by the lack of information available in this country concerning education in Vietnam. However, we were greatly assisted by the generosity of Dr. Hal O. Hall of USAID who shared the materials which he had acquired while serving in Vietnam; by Dr. Gordon Van Hooft of the New York State Department of Education, who generously provided his working papers on curriculum reform in Vietnam, as well as agreeing to read and comment on our paper; and by Dr. John E. King of Southern Illinois University and his associate, Mr. Henry Petraki, who furnished some of the information obtained by the SIU Vietnam Research Group.

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Introduction and General Survey

When Vietnamese children enter American public schools this year, not all the problems will be theirs. Administrators, counselors and teachers will face the problem of orienting, placing and counseling children from schools, and from a culture, vastly different from their own. In an effort to familiarize American educators with the Vietnamese education system, this guide has been prepared.

Vietnam, like most countries except the United States, had a national education system. Programs of study from pre-school through university, administrative procedures, teacher-training and placement were all directed by the Ministry of Education in Saigon. Due to the inability of such a centrally-run system to enforce decisions, policy changes were frequently implemented in different regions with differing degrees of effectiveness. Hence, any curriculum description will necessarily have to be viewed as ideal, rather than actual. However, it is hoped that the following discussion will at least give a basic grounding, a starting point, as it were, for the difficult job of student placement.

In principle, education in Vietnam was free and mandatory for all children from age six through the first five primary grades. Of course, not all areas were able to serve all children. Elementary schools offered a general program which was at once terminal in nature but also prepared the pupil for secondary education. The class was teacher-oriented, and the curricula were geared toward memorization and repetition. Respect for the teacher as a symbol of learning and culture was profound. Based largely on the French system, education was by observation, rather than by experimentation.

After the primary years, the child entered a secondary school, either studying vocational arts or the humanities and science. The secondary years were divided into two cycles: The first cycle running for 4 years, and the second for 3. Essentially, the second cycle intensified and broadened the student's knowledge of work covered in the first cycle. (In fact, intensification of knowledge through repetition is a standard feature of Vietnamese education.)

Most students were placed in one of the four academic tracks: modern literature, classical literature, mathematics or experimental science. Because of the rapid increase of population in urban centers, where most secondary schools were located, there was a growing lack of spaces in educational establishments; thus students tended to be drawn from the middle and upper classes and reflected the educational and cultural goals and values of those classes. Only recently, with an attitude shift away from "academics" to "practical" skills had vocational education begun to play a role in Vietnamese education.

Another result of the shortage of public school places was the emergence of a parallel system of private education, modeled on the public schools, but with considerably less demanding standards of admission. (These schools were inspected by Ministry of Education inspectors, however, and private school students took the finishing exams jointly with public school students.)

Within the academic branch, mathematics, literature, philosophy, biology, chemistry, French and English were important areas of study. Using the lecture method developed in Europe, the students were expected to memorize

the subject matter, rather than engaging in critical study. The elective system, as is used in this country was unknown to Vietnamese students. Hence, your new students will require more careful counseling in course selection than a student familiar with our system of self-contained electives and credit-accumulation. The Vietnamese system was largely examination-oriented, culminating in the Baccalaureate II, a competitive examination which was taken at the end of seven years of secondary education.

We have not attempted to fully describe the secondary curriculum for a variety of reasons. It should be remembered that academic training within a specific discipline on the secondary level is basically uniform around the world. That is, in a mathematics course in Vietnam, the U.S. or Venezuela, students will study algebra, geometry, advanced algebra and trigonometry. Similarly in a history series, while different education systems may stress different methodologies, or a particular political perspective, the basic facts and relationships will remain the same. In order to understand the secondary system as it operated in Vietnam, one must remember that it stressed the lecture method, memorization of facts, and employed learning by observation, rather than encouraging discovery learning.

The Vietnamese pupil, on both the elementary and secondary level will not only be continuing his education in a language which may be unfamiliar to him, but he will also be studying in an environment and in a style unknown to him. The greater freedom he will enjoy, the higher demands on his self-reliance and creativity, the shift from memorization to problem-solving and the encouragement for debate and argumentation may all be expected to complicate his situation and, initially, at least, may intensify his disorientation.

The following summary of curricula has been prepared to help educators help the child. The summary indicates what the Ministry of Education wanted taught; however, given the distance between the Ministry and the schools, the difficult conditions under which education was carried out and the relative lack of teacher preparation, what the child actually learned may have been somewhat different. This, coupled with the fact that very few parents were able to obtain school records before they left Vietnam, will pose problems in assessing what the child has learned. However, it is hoped that having this guide will provide a starting point for the job of student placement.

One of the things you may wish to do before placing a student is to conduct an interview with the student and his parents. Vietnamese parents have very strong feelings about education and culture. They will probably view education as basically a matter of academic skill-acquisition which should afford their child an opportunity to go to university and maintain or advance the family's social position. To facilitate the interview, you may wish to obtain the services of an interpreter. Very often, the parents will be able to provide concrete information about the program of studies which their child was pursuing.

Principles Underlying the Revision of the Elementary Education Curriculum

Reprinted from: Elementary Education Curriculum; Dept. of National Education, Saigon, Vietnam, 1960.

I. Fundamental principles of education in Vietnam

A) Education in Vietnam must be a humanist education, respecting the sacred character of the human being, regarding man as an end in himself, and aiming at the full development of man.

B) Education in Vietnam must be a national education, respecting the traditional values, assuring the continuity of man with his natural environment (his family, profession and country), aiming at safeguarding the nation, its prosperity and the collective promotion of its people.

C) Education in Vietnam must be an open education, respecting the scientific mind as a factor of progress, attempting to develop the social and democratic spirit, and welcoming all the authentic cultural values of the world.

II. Characteristics of Elementary Education in Vietnam

Based on the three fundamental principles of education in Vietnam, elementary education must have the following characteristics:

A) It respects the personality of the child. Educators should:

1) Help the child to develop harmoniously and fully according to his nature and the natural laws governing physical and psychological growth.

2) Take into consideration the individuality and the particular abilities of the child.

3) Practice extensively discipline by self-criticism.

4) Avoid all punishment that may effect the child's personality negatively.

B) It develops the national spirit.

1) Take as objects of study the common people's way of life as well as the social situation of the country.

2) Use national history to teach the children to love the country, to praise the fighting spirit of the people, to love one another and to stay united.

3) Use the Vietnamese language as the efficient means to develop national ideals.

4) Teach the children to appreciate the beauty of the Vietnamese landscape, the abundant natural resources of the country, and the traditional qualities of the people.

5) Preserve the traditional principles and the good customs of the nation.

6) Develop self-confidence, self-sufficiency and self-reliance.

C) It fosters the democratic and scientific spirit.

1) Promote the organization of "self-governed" groups, develop the spirit of community (collective play and work) and collective consciousness.

2) Develop judgement, sense of responsibility and discipline.

3) Stimulate the child's curiosity and develop his scientific spirit.

4) Eliminate superstitions.

5) Welcome all foreign cultural values while developing at the same time the national spirit.

NUMBER OF HOURS PER WEEK OF INSTRUCTION IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION BY GRADE AND SUBJECT

SUBJECT	Grade 5*	Grade 4	Grade 3	Grade 2	Grade 1
1. Vietnamese Language					
a. Vocabulary & Reading	5.5	3.6	3.6	3.75	3.75
b. Recitation	1	1	1.5	.50	.50
c. Penmanship	2.5	1	1	.50	.50
d. Dictation/Grammar	.50	1.33	1.5	1.75	1.75
e. Composition		1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
2. Moral Ed & Civics	2.12	2.12	2.60	2.50	2.50
3. History			1	1	1
4. Geography			1	1	1
5. Math	2.5	3	3	3.90	3.90
6. Drawing	1.60	.90	.90	.90	.90
7. Home Ec **				1.90	1.90
8. Activities	1	1	2	2	2
9. Science	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50
10. Phys Ed	1.60	1.60	1.60	2	2
11. Child Care **				.50	.50

* For a long time, the Vietnamese system, like the French, named the classes in descending order. Thus, a child entered the 5th grade at age 6 and finished primary education in Grade 1 at about age 11. However, in recent years this has been changed to a system of names more correspondent with the American system. But in this discussion we will adhere to the former system. For interview purposes, the educator is advised to ask how many years of schooling the child has completed rather than what grade he was in.

** Girls only

PRESENT REGULAR 1ST CYCLE OF SECONDARY SCHOOL CURRICULUM

(Hours/Week)

SUBJECT	GRADE 6	7	8	9	TOTAL HOURS
Vietnamese	6	6	6	6	24
History - (1)	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	6
Geography	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	6
Civics	1	1	1	2	5
Modern Language	6	6	5	5	22
Mathematics	3	3	3.5	3.5	13
Natural Science	1	1.5	1.5	2	6
Physics	1	1	1.5	1.5	5
Chemistry	1	1	1	1	4
TOTAL	22	22.5	22.5	24	91
Physical Education, gymnastics, youth activities	3	3	3	3	12
Handicraft (boys) (2)	1	1	1	1	4
Home Economics (girls) (3)	1	1	1	1	4
Music	1	1	1	1	4
TOTAL	28	28.5	28.5	30	115

NOTES: (1) History and geography are given a total of 3 hours/week for each year, with 1½ hours indicated for each.

(2) Separate courses are described -- handicrafts, carpentry, metalworking, and electrical.

(3) Courses are sewing, child care, and cooking.

SECOND-CYCLE SECONDARY SCHOOL CURRICULUM

(Hours/Week)

(Sections: A - Experimental Sciences, B - Mathematics,
C - Modern Languages, D - Classical Languages)

REQUIRED SUBJECTS	GRADE 10	GRADE 11	GRADE 12	REQUIRED HOURS IN SECTIONS	TOTAL HOURS
Vietnamese	3	4	0 (2)	A + B	7 (9)
	5	6	0 (3)	C + D	11 (14)
History - Geography	3	3	3 (2)	A + B	9 (8)
	3	3	3	C + D	9
Civics	2	2	1	A, B, C, D	5
Philosophy	0	0	3	B	3
	0	0	4	A	4
	0	0	9 (8)	C + D	9 (8)
Modern Language I	4	4	3	A + B	11
	6	6	6	C + D	18
Modern Language II	0	0	0	D	0
	4	4	3	A + B	11
	6	6	6 (4)	C	18 (16)
Classical Language	0	0	0	A, B, C	0
	6	6	6 (4)	D	18 (16)
Physics	½	½	½	C + D	1½
	3	3	5	A + B	11
Chemistry	½	½	½	C + D	1½
	1½	1½	2	A + B	5
Mathematics	1	1	1	C + D	3
	4	4	5 (4)	A	13 (12)
	6	6	9 (8)	B	21 (20)
Natural Science	1	1	1	B, C, D	3
	3	3	4	A	10
TOTAL (Minimum-Maximum)	25-27½	26-28½	28-30		79-86
ELECTIVES Boys	2	2	2		6
ELECTIVES Girls	3	3	3		9

The numbers in parentheses represent changes effective in 1974-75 as the result of a new requirement for Vietnamese in Grade 12.

AN EXAMPLE OF A SECOND-CYCLE CURRICULUM,

THE THU DUC DEMONSTRATION SCHOOL, 1972-73

Sections: I - Literature, II A - Science, II B - Math/Science, III A - Business Education/Accounting, III B - Business Education/Office Practice, IV A - Industrial Arts/Specialized, IV B - Industrial Arts/Math.

REQUIRED SUBJECTS	GRADE 10	11	12	REQUIRED IN SECTIONS	TOTAL HOURS
Vietnamese	3	3	2	IIA, IIIA, IVA, B	8
	5	5	3	I, IIIB	13
Social Studies	4	4	4	I, II, III, IV	12
Philosophy	0	0	3	II, III, IV	3
	0	0	6	I	6
Modern Language I	5	5	5	II, IIIA, IV	15
	6	6	6	I, IIIB	18
Modern Language II	4	4	4	I, IIIB	12
Mathematics	0	4	0	I, IIIB	4
	4	4	3	IVA	11
	4	4	4	IIIA	12
	4	4	5	IIA	13
	6	7	9	IIB, IVB	22
Physics-Chemistry	0	4	4	I, IIIB	8
	4	4	3	IVA	11
	4	4	0	IIIA	8
	5	6	6	II, IVB	17
Natural Science	3	0	0	I, IIB, III, IV	3
	4	4	4	IIA	12
Physical Education	2	2	2	I, II, III, IV	6
Business Education	5	6	9	IIIA	20
	5	6	6	IIIB	17
Industrial Arts	4	6	4	IVB	14
	7	9	10	IVA	26
Free Electives	3	3	0	II, IIIA	6
	6	6	0	I	12
TOTALS: (Minimum-Maximum)	30-33	30-33	29-35		90-100

This curriculum represents the first move toward comprehensive education.

CURRICULUM - GRADE FIVE

Vietnamese

In this first grade, the child will learn proper methods of conversation. He will be trained to observe shapes, colors, sizes and positions and learn to make comparisons and judgements. Vocabulary study, which begins in the 2nd semester, will focus on the school buildings, furniture, class activities and games. Also, vocabulary study will examine titles and honorifics used in the family hierarchy.

Reading: Children will be taught the alphabet, words and short sentences. Short paragraphs, related to the vocabulary lessons, will be added in Semester II. Moral maxims and proverbs will be memorized. Further, children will be asked to repeat model sentences to improve their accents and pronunciation.

Dictation: The pupils will learn to write what they have learned and the numbers from 1-10 (arabic numbers). They will begin to write to dictations of short sentences.

Composition: No prescribed program.

Moral Education

During grades 5, 4, and 3, moral education will concentrate on practice. While there are no scheduled lessons, the teacher will tell stories, illustrating the following virtues:

1. Duty toward oneself
2. Duty toward grandparents, parents and siblings.
3. Duty at school (toward teachers and friends).
4. Duty toward others (politeness, proper modes of address, etc.).

Civic Education

As in moral education, there are no lessons, but teachers will explain and have children practice:

1. traffic regulations
2. respect for property (private and public)
3. classroom behavior
4. hygiene at school
5. attitude toward the flag

Science

This subject will be taught on field-trips and through classroom observations. Concepts: left, right, time, day, week, month, seasons, sky, cardinal points.

Hygiene will be taught through practice: washing of hands, teeth, sitting correctly, how to eat and drink, learning to keep the school clean.

Arithmetic	Numbers from 0 to 100, counting, reading and writing to 100. Learning to add and subtract. Counting by 2, 5, and 10. Checking addition and subtraction. Carrying numbers, drawing straight, broken and curved lines; using money and introduction to the metric system.
Drawing	Sketching in chalk, pencil and colored pencils from a model.
Handicrafts (boys only)	Arranging pieces of cardboard into shapes (houses, animals, flowers, etc.). Folding and cutting paper into shapes. Covering books, picking and pressing flowers, cleaning tables and chairs.
Activities	Songs and dances, tying knots, active games. Field trips and nature walks, exploring the neighborhood.
Physical Education	Walking, running, singing, dancing, mimicry, throwing balls, movement, breathing exercises.

CURRICULUM - GRADE FOUR

Vietnamese: Vocabulary	The students learn lexical items concerned with people at school: principal, teachers, classmates. Vocabulary of games and sport; duties of children at school. They also learn the names of the parts of the body. Different kinds of food and table service; names of different components of western clothing. The honorifics and modes of address of aunts and uncles. Different kinds of houses and furniture. Finally, the vocabulary study extends to the names of domestic animals.
Reading	Reading texts and lessons learned by heart will include short, practical prose and verse pieces that are relevatn to the study of morals. Also, the National Anthem and folk poetry will be studied. Particular attention will be paid to pronunciation and intonation.
Dictation	Short selections from the reading texts. Emphasis will be put on punctuation.
Penmanship	Medium-sized script will be taught.
Composition	The composition is keyed to the vocabulary lessons, in four stages:

a) the student will complete a sentence with a vocabulary word

b) answering questions on subjects taught that week

c) making sentences with assigned words

d) answering questions on an essay subject

Moral Education

There is no time specifically reserved for moral education, but discussion will be held on these subjects: (After the discussions, the pupils will copy a moral epigram into their notebooks.)

a) The pupil's duty toward himself:

1) doing physical education and making an effort

2) learning about virtue

3) contrition for one's mistakes

4) economy

5) modesty

b) Pupil's duty at home:

1) review of Grade 5 lessons

2) maintaining a good reputation

3) duty toward relatives

c) Pupil's duty in school:

1) review of Grade 5 lessons

2) friendship

d) Pupil's duty toward others

1) politeness

2) frankness

3) love of others and spirit of helpfulness

Civics:

No lessons are scheduled, but discussions will cover:

a) practicing traffic regulations

b) socio-political organization on the local level

c) respect for authorities

d) historical anecdotes of a patriotic nature

e) duties of the citizen -- respect for public and private property

History

Visits to historical sites in the area; stories of famous people native to the region; famous characters from Vietnamese history.

Geography	The terms of geography: mountain, valley, river, seashore, hill, field. Practice finding the cardinal points (East, North, South, West).
General Science	The external organs, bones, skin, flesh. Common plants and animals. Soil and rocks. Air, wind and storms. Personal Hygiene as in Grade 5.
Arithmetic	Adding and subtracting to 1,000. Multiplication with 2, 3, 4, and 5. A half, a third, a quarter. Two figure multiplicands, with unit multipliers. Start learning to work problems mentally. Learning about meters, kilograms and liters. Practice in estimate measuring. Weighing with a balance scale and estimating weight by volume. Definition of a line, a point. Angles: right, acute, obtuse. Definition of a square and a rectangle.
Drawing	Drawing the geometric forms learned above. Also, drawing from models and free sketching.
Handicrafts	Cutting paper and cardboard along a line. Making paper toys; binding notebooks, labeling; pressing flowers, making utensils: brooms, chop sticks, lanterns, pen holders, etc. Girls will begin to study needlework: hemstitch, back stitch, overcast, chain stitching, and cross-stitching. Also, they will begin to learn food preparation and serving tea and arranging flowers.
Activities	Dances, songs, knot-tying, how to lay a fire, lively games.
Physical Education	Same as Grade 5.

CURRICULUM - GRADE THREE

Vietnamese: Vocabulary	Children will learn the days, weeks, months and years. Also, the names of the internal organs and diseases. Vocabulary items dealing with food and the culinary arts. Different parts of garments, as well as lexical items concerning European clothing will be studies. Different words describing house and building construction will be introduced. Words dealing with the following human relationships will be taught: the household, ancestors, paternal and maternal relatives, cousins, half-brothers and sisters, and orphans. Names of birds, fish, wild animals, forest, and mountains, as well as

technical hunting and fishing terms will also be studied.

Reading — Reading texts and lessons to be learned by heart will be short poems and prose pieces relevant to the Moral Education and Vocabulary classes.

Dictation — Five or six-line passages drawn from the readings texts. Particular attention should be paid to letter formation and punctuation. Although grammar is not regularly taught at this stage, the differences between the low-rising and high-rising broken tones will be stressed.

Composition — The pupils will write sentences with the verb "to be" and the words "then", "that" and "because". They will answer questions on subjects learned in reading classes and write descriptions of trees, animals and simple landscapes.

Moral Education — As in Grades 5 and 4, there are no regularly scheduled classes in Moral Education, but discussions will be held covering the following topics:

1) filial piety
2) duty to parents when children are young
3) duty to parents when children are adults
4) duty to parents when parents are old and weak
5) duty toward teachers, schoolmates, at school and outside the school
6) keeping one's promises; sincerity
7) relationship with relatives and neighbors

Civics — There are regular lessons and discussions centered around: traffic regulations, government administration, good manners, proper dress, behavior in public, duties of the citizen (paying taxes, military service, obeying the law) and patriotism.

History — In addition to visiting local historical sites, the children will hear stories of heroes of Vitenam from ancient times to modern. The children should be taught the relationship between different historical events and modern times.

Geography — In this class, the pupils will study the heavenly bodies, the poles, and hemispheres, and continents, oceans, tides, seasons and the lunar and solar calendars. They will study social organizations from the class to the school, village, town, district, province, neighboring provinces and Vietnam.

Science — Areas studied will include: water, vapor, clouds and rain. The principle organs of the body, the senses, the circulatory, digestive, respiratory and excretory systems. The pupils will observe different types of animals: dogs, cats, oxen, rabbits, ducks, lizards, frogs, etc. Also, some types of metals and minerals: iron, zinc, copper, aluminum, chalk, clay, sand, salt and coal.

In the area of hygiene, preventive medicine and care of the eyes, ears and respiratory, digestive, excretory and circulatory systems will be studied.

Arithmetic — Addition and subtraction with numbers greater than 1,000. Checking of addition and subtraction. The multiplication tables and multiplication with 3-figure numbers. Two-figure division. Adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing with decimals. Further training in mental calculation. Geometry: square, rectangle, parallelogram and triangle. How to find the perimeter and surface area of above.

Drawing — Lessons will center on pencil drawing from models and realistic reproduction of fruits, leaves, etc.

Handicrafts

Boys: — Using cardboard to make boxes, calendars, picture frames and toys. Book-binding. Sweeping and cleaning, taking care of clothes, making brooms, fans, etc.

Girls: — Binding books, sweeping and cleaning, pleating and hemstitching: simple, Italian, oblique and straight. Embroidering the 25 letters of the alphabet on canvas, cutting and sewing handkerchiefs, pillowcases and diapers.

Activities — Basically the smae as in grade four, with the addition of skits and pantomimes. More knot-tying, plus laying fires, cooking rice, giving basic first-aid.

Physical Education — Breathing games, collective games.

CURRICULUM - GRADE TWO

Vietnamese:

Vocabulary — Vocabulary in this calss will focus on official government terminology and the terminology appropriate to trades and occupations. Further, communication and transportation vocabulary will be developed. Meteorological vocabulary will

also be introduced.

Reading	Modern prose and verse pieces which reflect national and social spirit will be studied. Short verses with moral content will be memorized. Reading should be fluent and natural without meaningless sounds between the words. The tone should match the meaning of the text, its characteristics, and details.
Dictation	Ten-line selections from modern literature relevant to the Moral Education classes. Special attention should be paid to punctuation and diacritical marks.
Grammar	Using the dictation selections, the pupils will study the parts of speech, different articles, the parts of a sentence, the active and passive voices.
Composition	Using phrases such as "only...", "not only...but also...", "and...again...", "each", "one", "some", "many", "all", "less", etc. Also, describing things, letter writing and writing narratives will be studied.
Moral Education	Through discussion and lessons, attention will be paid to the following: economy, foresight, courage and simplicity. Further, the responsibility of elders, the duties of younger brothers and sisters and respect for the family spirit. Pupils will also discuss their relationship to school and teacher. Justice, sincerity and patriotism as well as respect for discipline will serve as the final focuses of this class.
Civics	Practicing the virtues of a citizen of the Republic. Effort, sacrifice, self-confidence, self-reliance, wisdom as essential qualities of the political man. The elementary notions of birth, death and marriage certificates.
History	This course will provide a survey of Vietnamese history from prehistoric time, through the period of Chinese domination, Independence and the Period of Rivalry between the North and the South.
Geography	Physical, political and economic geography of Vietnam. The geography of Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and China in relation to Vietnam. Map drawing.
Science & Health	The following will be emphasized:

A. Parts of the body, the senses, the skeletal, nervous and muscular systems in addition to the circulatory, respiratory and excretory systems.

B. Classification of animals

C. Parts and functioning of trees. Use of fertilizers.

D. Common and precious stones used in construction; common metals: brass, iron, steel, lead, tin, etc.

E. Hygiene:

1. Review of previous study.
2. Caring for food, dangers of alcohol, tobacco and opium, filtering water.
3. Ways of digging wells.
4. Methods of disinfection.
5. Quarantines.
6. Government health regulations.

Arithmetic — Review of four basic procedures; review of decimals and introduction to adding and subtracting fractions. Problems and exercises concerning everyday things. Multiples and submultiples of the metric system. Geometry: rhombus, trapezium, polygon and circles.

Drawing — Measuring a model by eye. Sketching from a model, decorative lines, drawing from memory and mixing water-colors.

Handicrafts

Boys: Modeling with clay, sketching, learning to saw, chisel and plane, binding books, planting flowers in pots, making useful objects.

Girls: Mending, simple sewing, embroidery.

Activities — Reading music, rhythmic dancing, comic plays, first aid, compass orientation and knot-tying.

Physical Education — Swimming, exercise, collective games.

Child Care

Girls only: Child care: holding, bathing, dressing and feeding babies. Learning about breast and bottle feeding.

CURRICULUM - GRADE ONE

Vietnamese:

Vocabulary	Pertaining to sports, games, sightseeing and tourism, culture, science, laboratories, seaports, import-export activities, social aids, philanthropy, race, religion, systems of government, military life, weapons, war and peace.
Reading	Reading of good prose and verse pieces from contemporary sources and excerpts from the Masters. The pupils should begin to recognize different kinds of style and be able to interpret texts.
Dictation	Passages of 15 lines relevant to vocabulary and moral education. Explanation of words and main ideas of the text.
Grammar	Linking several short sentences, writing transitions, beginning grammatical analysis.
Composition	Business letters, memoirs and explanations of adages and proverbs.
Moral Education	Discussion and lectures will stress: value and necessity of manual labor, choosing a profession, honesty, professional conscientiousness, mutual assistance, sacrifice to aid countrymen, kindness and charity, duties to the nation, respect for other cultures.
Civics	Duties of the citizen, observance of the law, love for justice and freedom, love for country and its symbols, rights of the citizen, elections, organization of the government, legislative powers, executive powers, public offices.
History	Survey of Nguyen dynasty, French colonial period and Independence Period.
Geography	Geography of Vietnam, India, the Philippines, Indonesia, Burma, Japan. The location of the continents (emphasizing powerful allies of Vietnam) and map-drawing.
Science	Gravity and weight, ignition, air pressure, pumps, barometers, magnets, electricity. Hygiene: parasites and bacteria, common illnesses, contagious illnesses.

Arithmetic	Fractions, percentage, proportion, volume, density, prisms, cylinders.
Drawing	Measuring a model by eye, perspective, mixing colors, sketching, drawing in proportion.
Handicrafts	Polishing furniture, making furniture, toys, etc.
Physical Education	Same as Grade Two.